

Rec'd PCT/PTO 14 JAN 2002

#17 Pro A Ont A
10/15/02/20
PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of)
Jonathan W. Clarke et al.)Serial No. 09/936,464)
Filed:)

For: TUFTING-MACHINE)

Attorney Docket: 047.0057

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination, please amend the subject applications as follows:

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 4 through 7 and enter the following new claims 8 through 25:

al

8. (New) A method for operating a tufting machine comprising at least one double-sliding needlebar, loopers or hooks to pick up yarn delivered through needles supported on the at least one double-sliding needle-bar, knives to cut loops of yarn formed by the loopers or hooks, and driving means, said method being characterized in that the movement of the at least one double-sliding needlebar, the movement of the loopers or the hooks, or the movement of the knives is non-simple harmonic motion and, further characterized in that the at least one double-sliding needlebar dwells or halts when the needles stand at top dead center so that the needles do not tag the back-stitches.

9. (New) The method claimed in claim 8, further characterized in that the double-sliding needlebar dwells or halts when the needles stand at the pick-up point, so that the pick-up of the yarn by the loops or hooks is assisted.

10. (New) The method claimed in claim 8 or 9, further characterized in that the at least one double-sliding needlebar dwells or halts when the needles stand above the backing to extend the time available for feeding of the primary backing fabric.

11. (New) The method claimed in claim 1, 2, 8 or 9, further characterized in that the loopers are